

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00686 031133Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6043

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0686

NODIS

FOR DELIVERY TO AF - AMB TALCOTT SEELYE AT OOB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SF US

SUBJ: VORSTER-MONDALE MEETING

1. RAND DAILY MAIL AND CAPE TIMES CARRY ALMOST IDENTICAL
ARTICLES REPORTING FORTHCOMING MONDALE-VORSTER VISIT.

TEXT OF CAPE TIMES STORY IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE VORSTER INVITED TO MEET MONDALE

QUOTE THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. VORSTER, HAS BEEN
INVITED TO MEET THE US VICE PRESIDENT, MR. WALTER MONDALE,
IN VIENNA LATER THIS MONTH.

QUOTE LAST NIGHT ALL SIGNS POINTED TO A MEETING OF
THE TWO MEN IN THE AUSTRIAN CAPITAL SOME TIME BETWEEN MAY 18
AND 23.

QUOTE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY,
MAXINE BURNS, SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW FROM THE WHITE
HOUSE, INNER QUOTE I CAN'T CONFIRM OR DENY THAT
STORY. END INNER QUOTE

QUOTE SHE SAID MR. MONDALE WOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT
LATER TODAY, BUT SHE REFUSED TO CONFIRM WHETHER IT WOULD
ANNOUNCE THAT THE MEETING WAS ON.

QUOTE IN CAPE TOWN LAST NIGHT, THE SECRETARY FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. BRAND FOURIE, SAID INNER QUOTE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00686 031133Z

I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THIS STORY. WE HAVE NOTHING TO SAY.
END INNER QUOTE

QUOTE BUT SOURCES IN TOUCH WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS
SAID MR. MONDALE HAD DEFINITELY ISSUED THE INVITATION--AND
THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE HELD.

QUOTE IF THE MEETING GOES AHEAD, MR. MONDALE WOULD
BE THE HIGHEST RANKING POLITICIAN MR. VORSTER HAS MET.

QUOTE IT WOULD BE MR. VORSTER'S NINTH TRIP OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY--HIS PREVIOUS TRIPS BEING TO CERTAIN EUROPEAN CAPITALS IN 1970, THE IVORY COAST (1974), RHODESIA AND ZAMBIA (1975), LIBERIA (1975), PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY (AUGUST 1975), ISRAEL (APRIL 1976), WEST GERMANY (JUNE 1976) AND ZURICH (SEPTEMBER 1976).

QUOTE RECENTLY GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY BY PRESIDENT CARTER FOR EVOLVING A NEW US AFRICA POLICY, MR. MONDALE HAS CLEARLY CALLED THE MEETING AS HIS INITIAL ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

QUOTE SOURCES INDICATED LAST NIGHT MR. MONDALE HAD INVITED MR. VORSTER TO VIENNA BECAUSE HE WOULD BE IN THE AUSTRIAN CAPITAL FOR A SERIES OF OTHER TALKS DURING THE MAY 18 TO 25 PERIOD. END QUOTE

2. CLOSING PARAGRAPH OF RDM ACCOUNT, WHICH IS ONLY SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE FROM CAPE TIMES VERSION, READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE RECENTLY GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY BY PRESIDENT CARTER TO EVOLVE NEW US AFRICA POLICY, MR. MONDALE HAS CLEARLY CALLED THE MEETING AS HIS INITIAL ATTEMPT TO CONFRONT SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. THE US VICE PRESIDENT WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS THREE MAIN ISSUES WITH MR. VORSTER. THEY ARE: WHAT CHANGES HE WAS PREPARED TO MAKE INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA, WHAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DO TO HASTEN MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, WHAT HE WAS PREPARED TO CONCEDE IN WESTERN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN DISPUTE. END QUOTE

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PAGE 03 CAPE T 00686 031133Z

3. COMMENT: DESPITE PM'S ASSURANCE ON NO LEAKS FROM THIS END, I STRONGLY SUSPECT THAT STORY WAS DELIBERATELY PUT OUT HERE. WHEN PIK BOTHA CALLED ME YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO SAY THAT DFA AND THE PM'S OFFICE WERE GETTING ALL KINDS OF INQUIRIES ABOUT THE MEETING, I PRESSED HIM ON WHO WAS ASKING (SINCE I HAD RECEIVED NO CALLS) AND SOURCE OF THEIR INFORMATION. AFTER SOME HESITATION AND CONSULTATION WITH SUBORDINATE, HE CONCEDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN ONLY ONE INQUIRY FROM RDM AND THE SOURCE WAS RICHARD WALKER IN NEW YORK. THE STORY ON THE MEETING IS DATELINED JOHANNESBURG AND NOT NEW YORK. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS AN ARTICLE BY WALKER IN THIS MORNING'S RDM BUT IT IS NOT RPT NOT ABOUT THE VISIT. THE FOREGOING PLUS THE HEAVY EMPHASIS IN THE STORIES ON VP MONDALE INVITING PM VORSTER (WHICH IS THE MESSAGE THE SAG WANTS TO GET ACROSS HERE) MAKES ME BELIEVE THAT THE SAG IS THE SOURCE.

BOWDLER

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